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**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

*LI-ION TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW*

by

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# Li-ion Technology Overview

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# Current Market for Rechargeable Li-ion Batteries

- First commercialized in 1991
- Now “preferred” rechargeable battery chemistry for portable consumer electronics
- Estimate over **2 billion\*** Li-ion cells will be manufactured in 2006 for portable applications

<b>Major Applications for Small Li-ion Batteries</b>	<b>Approx. share of total Li-ion production*</b>
<b>Mobile phones</b>	<b>~ 55%</b>
<b>Notebook PC's</b>	<b>~ 25%</b>
<b>Cameras, Camcorders, MP3, PDA's, Games, etc.</b>	<b>~ 20%</b>

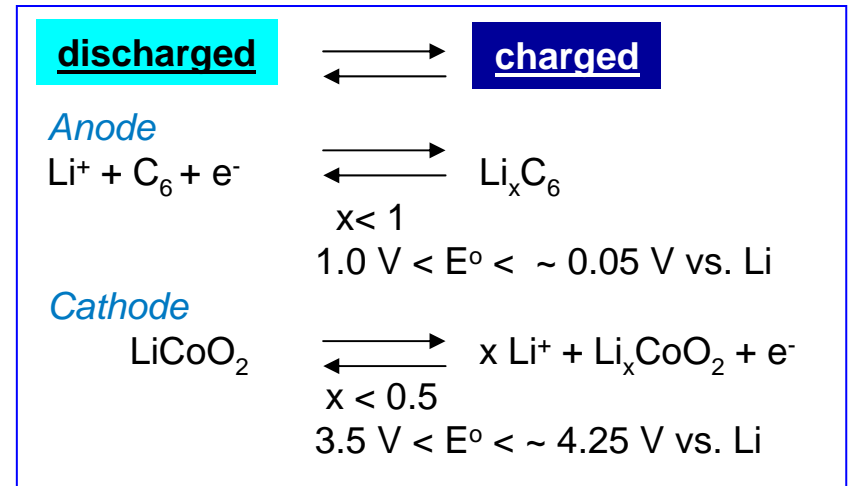
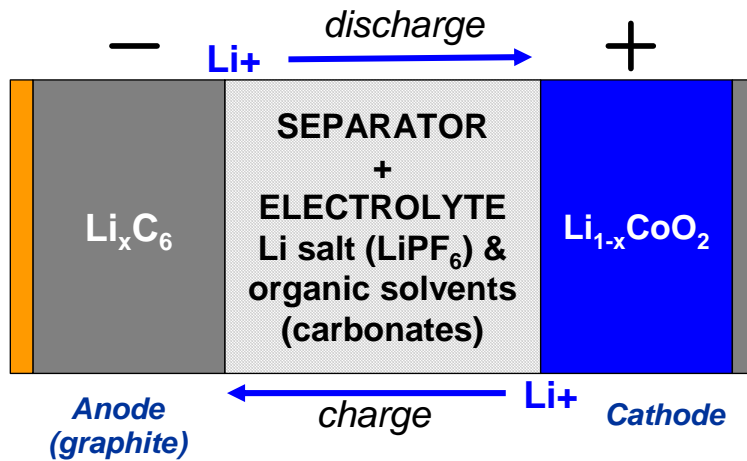
\*Reference: H. Takeshita, Institute of Information Technology

- Supply Chain:
  - **Cell manufacturers:** Predominantly in Asia (Japan, Korea, China)
  - **Pack manufacturers:** Worldwide, but majority in Asia
  - **Final packing with Host Device:** Worldwide

# Advantages of Li-ion

- Volumetric and gravimetric **Energy Density** exceeds other rechargeable chemistries (NiMH, NiCd, Lead Acid)
- Good power density
- Reasonable cost, very low “dollar per watt-hour”
- Cell voltage well matched to portable applications (3.7 V nominal)
- Good cycle life
- Low self-discharge
- No “memory effect”

# Basic Chemistry

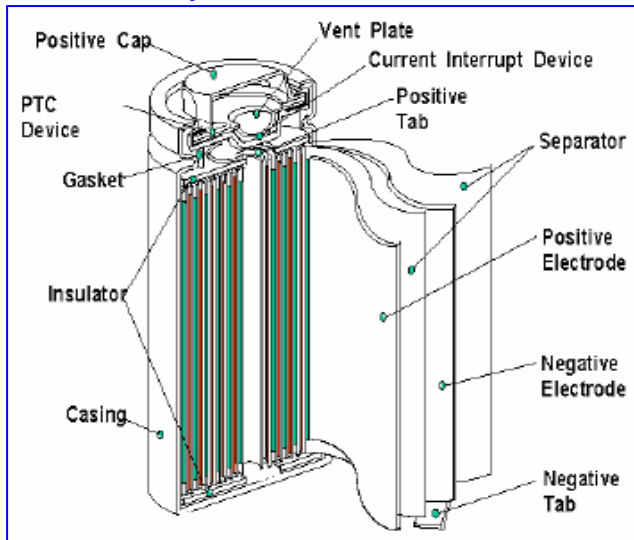


- Lithiated metal oxide cathode (usually cobalt based)
- Graphite anode
- Organic solvent electrolyte with lithium salt.
- ***No lithium metal***

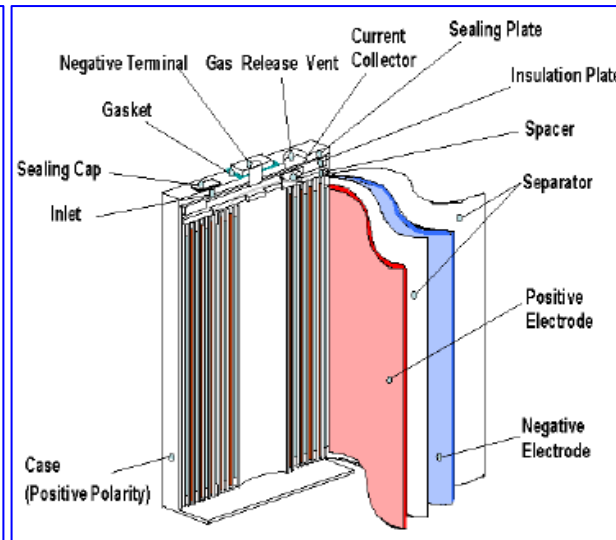
# Basic Construction

Figures Reference: *IEEE 1725 Standard*

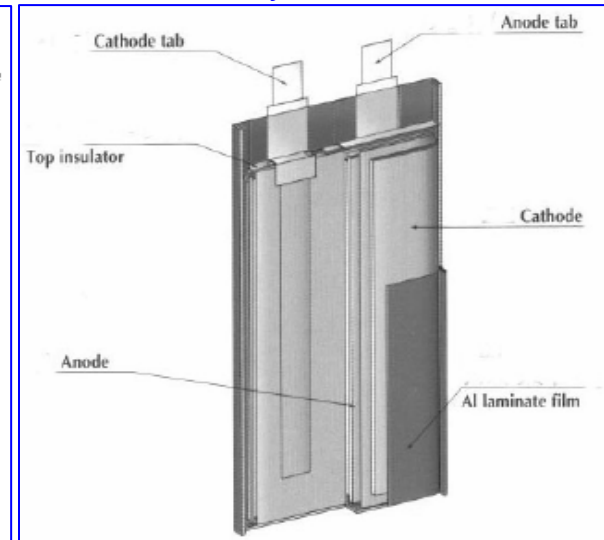
Cylindrical



Prismatic



Polymer



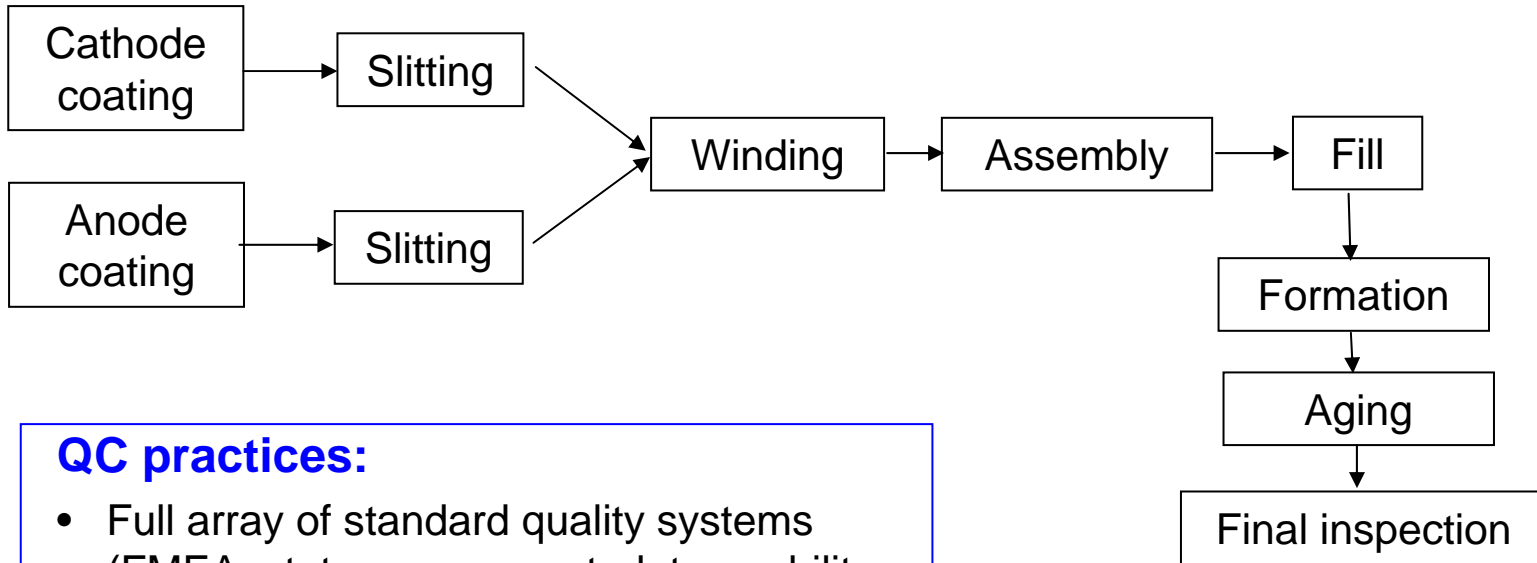
## General:

- Coated foil electrodes
- Porous separator with absorbed electrolyte
- Spiral wound “jelly roll” or “cut and stack”
- Safeguard examples:
  - Cell design
  - Vent mechanism
  - “Shutdown” separator
  - PTC, fuses, etc. on larger cells

## “Li-ion Polymer”:

- Same basic chemistry and structure
- Polymer laminate casing replaces metal can
- Allows for some sizes not possible in cans
- Generally rigid, prismatic form factor
- Various electrolyte technologies
  - Conventional liquid
  - Gelled polymer

# Cell Manufacturing Overview

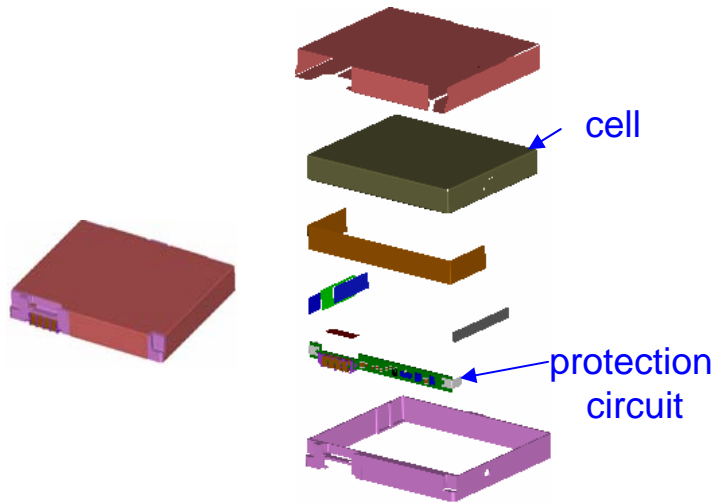


## QC practices:

- Full array of standard quality systems (FMEA, stat. process control, traceability, etc.)
- 100% X-ray inspection following assembly
- 100% Mechanical at numerous points
- 100% Electrical (internal shorts, impedance, capacity) at numerous points
- 100% Formation/Aging process (capacity, internal shorts)

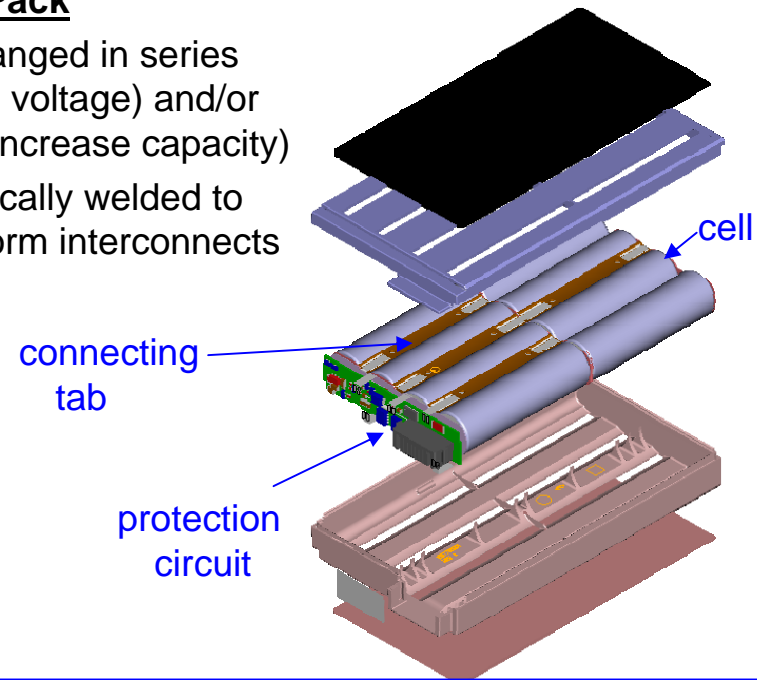
# Battery Pack Construction and Manufacturing

## Single Cell Pack



## Multicell Pack

- Cells arranged in series (increase voltage) and/or parallel (increase capacity)
- Tabs typically welded to cells to form interconnects



### **Pack Level Safeguards**

- Mechanical integrity
- Electrical controls
- Thermal controls



### **Design Considerations**

- Prevent short-circuits & loss of functionality
- Insulators, component layout & isolation
- Mechanical integrity of connectors & packaging

### **Manufacturing QC**

- Full array of standard quality systems (FMEA, stat. process control, etc.)
- Protection circuit test (preassembly and End-of-Line)
- General mechanical and electrical tests

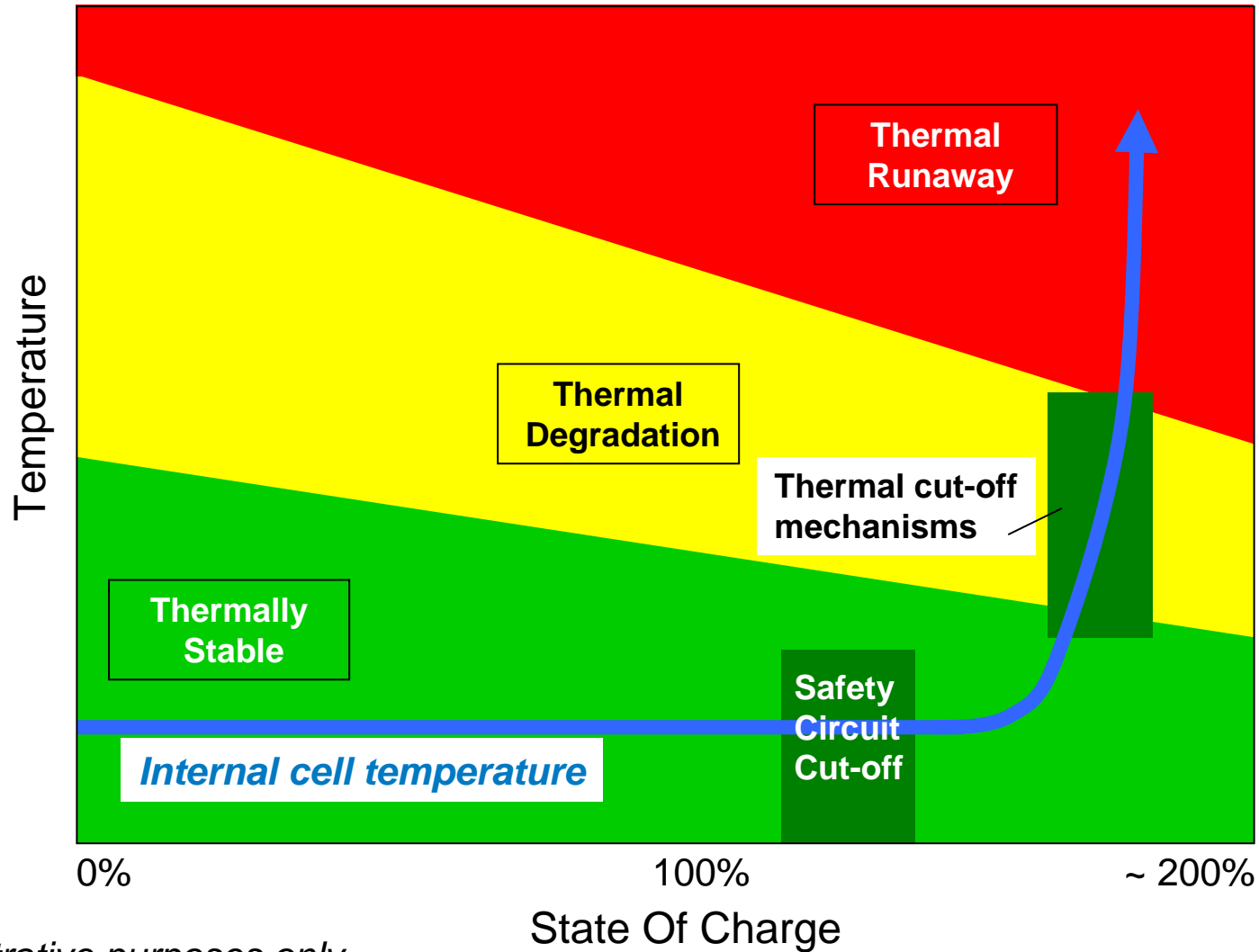


# Potential Failure Mechanisms

- ***Thermal runaway*** = sudden, rapid increase in cell temperature and pressure
  1. Cell heating
  2. Activation of exothermic reactions within the cell
  3. Activation of additional reactions
  4. Exponential increase in heat generation
  5. *Heat generation > Heat dissipation*
  6. *Thermal runaway: cell venting, internal temperatures > 200° C*
- **Potential causes**
  - Overcharge
  - Excessive environmental temperature
  - Internal short circuit
  - External short circuit

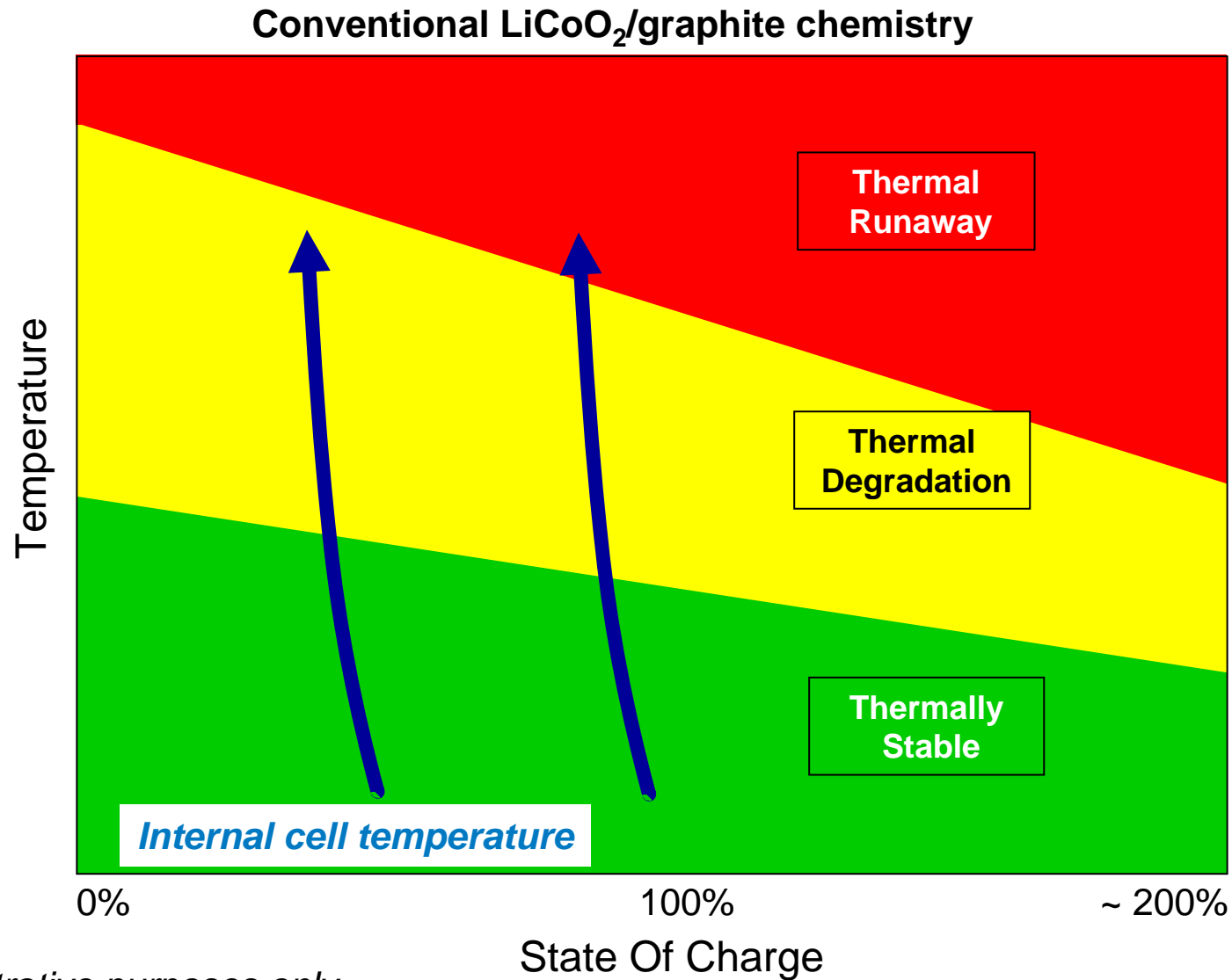
# Overcharge and Thermal Runaway

Conventional  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ /graphite chemistry



*\*for illustrative purposes only*

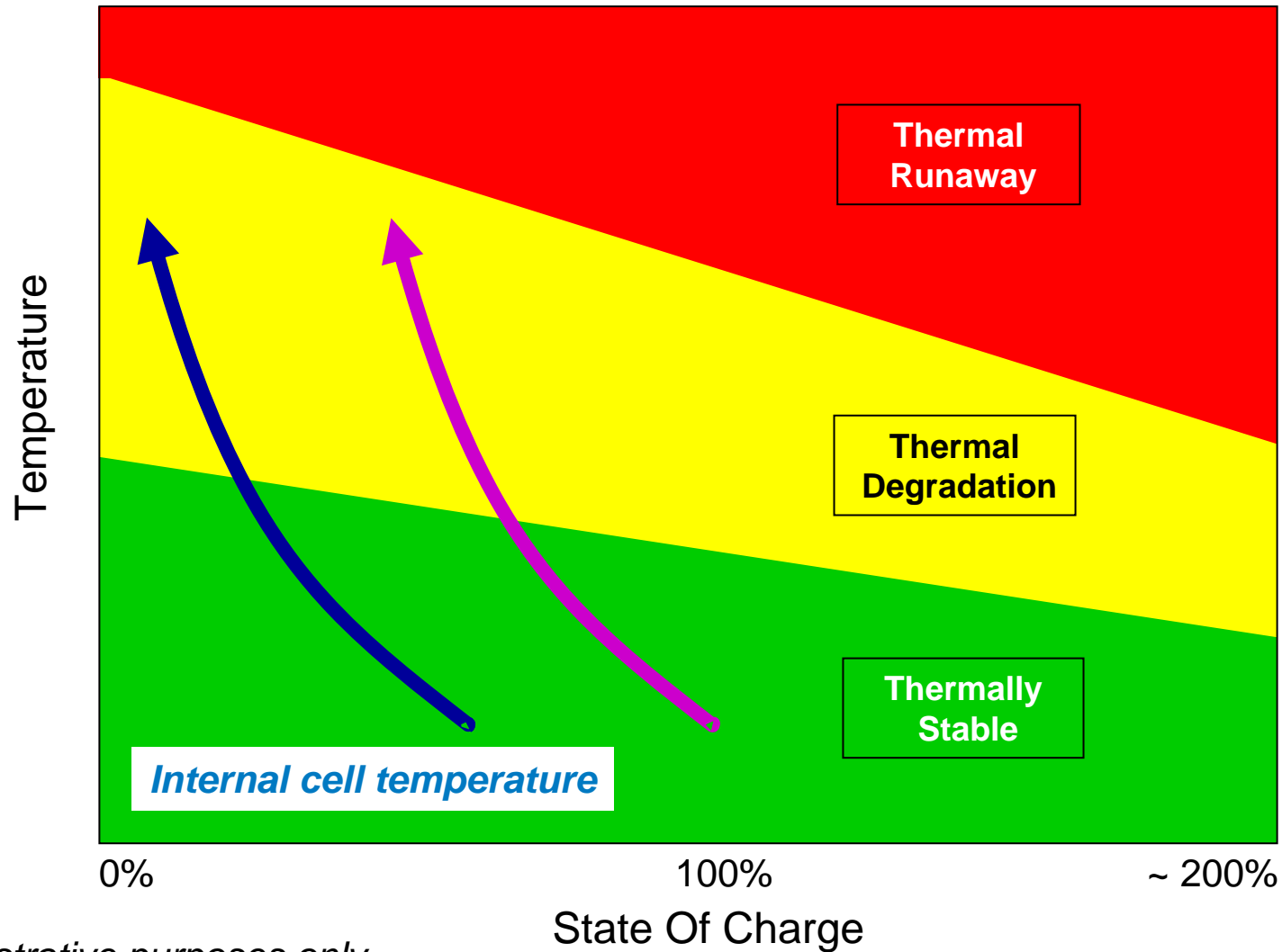
# External Heating and Thermal Runaway



*\*for illustrative purposes only*

# Short Circuit and Thermal Runaway

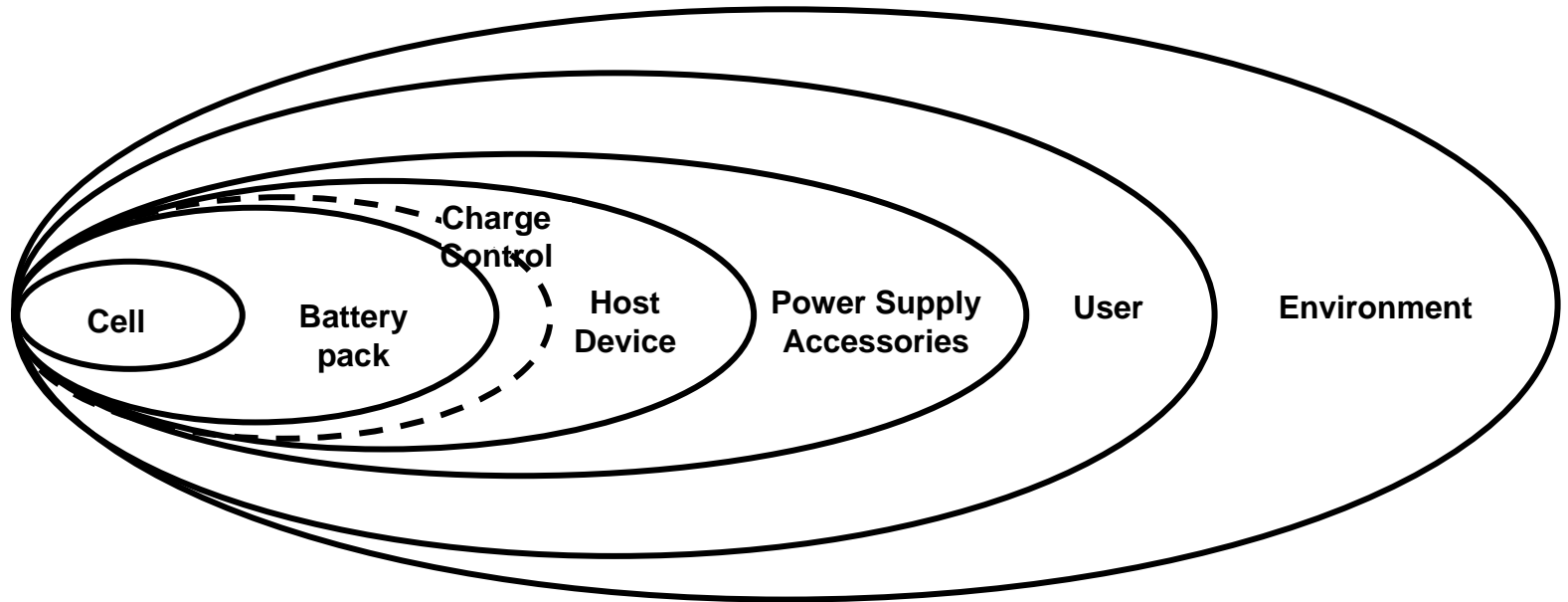
Conventional  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ /graphite chemistry



*\*for illustrative purposes only*

# Ensuring Safety and Reliability

DISTRIBUTED SAFETY SYSTEM (Ref - IEEE 1725)



- System Level Design
- Manufacturing Quality
- Testing and Validation

# Industry Standards and Transport Regulations

## **UN Recommendations for Transportation of Lithium and Li-ion Batteries**

- **Testing, packaging, labeling**

## **Traditional Cell and Battery Standards**

- **UL 1642, UL 2054, IEC 62133**
- **Includes Electrical, Mechanical, Thermal abuse tests**

## **IEEE System-Level Standards**

- **1625 (notebooks) & 1725 (cell phones)**
  - system level approach
  - design analysis
  - manufacturing practices
  - incorporate “best practices” and “lessons learned”

# Li-Ion State of Charge for Transportation

- **Minimum state of charge**
    - Must maintain capability to activate control circuit following prolonged storage
    - Batteries will self-discharge following prolonged storage
    - Prolonged storage in overdischarged state can **permanently damage** Li-ion cell due to dissolution of copper current collector
  - **Maximum state of charge**
    - Parasitic reactions in Li-ion cells can slowly degrade rechargeable capacity (“irreversible capacity loss”)
    - Driven by time, temperature, and state of charge
    - Temperature/time effects in fully charged cells can lead to unacceptable irreversible capacity losses. (**Permanent damage**).
- *Optimum state of charge for shipment is about 30 - 50%.*

# Sample Reference Studies on Li-ion Cells

(provided by the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association)

1. ***Flammability Assessment of Bulk-Packed, Rechargeable Lithium ion Batteries in Transport Category Aircraft (Draft)***, U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (2006).
2. ***U.S. FAA-Style Flammability Assessment of Lithium ion Cells and Battery Packs in Aircraft Cargo Holds***, Exponent Failure Analysis (2005).
3. ***Flammability Assessment of Bulk-Packed, Nonrechargeable Lithium Primary Batteries in Transport Category Aircraft***, U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (2004).
4. ***Effect of Cell State of Charge on Outcome of Internal Cell Faults***, Exponent Failure Analysis (2004).
5. ***Dealing With In-Flight Lithium Battery Fires In Portable Electronic Devices***, UK Civil Aviation Authority (2003).
6. ***A Study of Passenger Aircraft Cargo Hold Environments***, Exponent Failure Analysis (2001).
7. ***Safety Testing of Li-ion Cells***, U.S. Department of Transportation (2001).



# Highlights from Reference Studies

- Reduced state of charge mitigates risk in Li-ion batteries from crush, internal shorts, and excessive heating.
- Halon is effective on fires involving Li-ion batteries.
- Conventional fire extinguishers may be used on fires involving Li-ion batteries.
- Cargo liner resists fires involving Li-ion batteries.
- Significant differences between primary lithium and Li-ion batteries.

# Backup

# Properties of $\text{LiC}_6$

Theoretical specific capacity = 372 mAh/g  
(Li metal = 3860 mAh/g)

Li valence state in fully charged  $\text{LiC}_6$  is between 0 and 1 \*

Reaction kinetics limited by slow mass transfer of  $\text{Li}^+$  through carbon matrix

- Limited rate capability for Li-ion batteries
- Limited reactivity with water

Slow generation of  $\text{H}_2$  gas

Less than 14 liter/kg hr \*\*

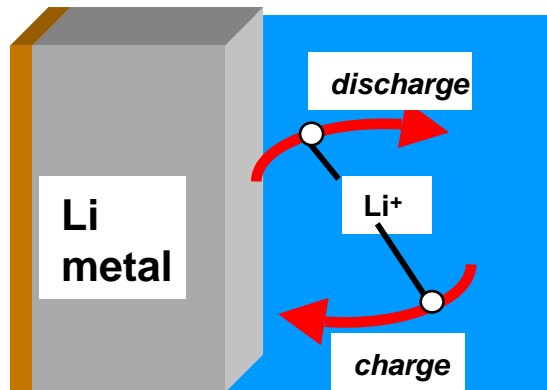
Meets PKG group III requirements

\* M. Fujimoto et al., *Electrochemical Society Proceedings Series*, Vol. 93-23, 1993.

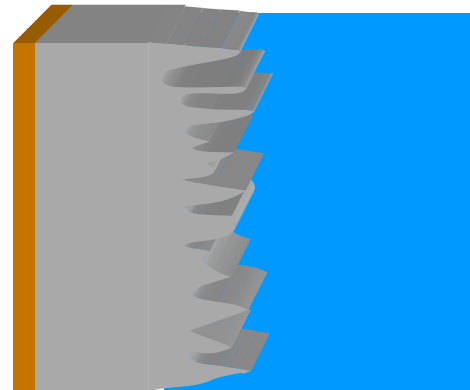
\*\* CEA Associates, "Risk Assessment of Li-ion Batteries", September 30, 1997

# Rechargeable Li-ion vs. Li Metal

Rechargeable Li Metal / liquid electrolyte:

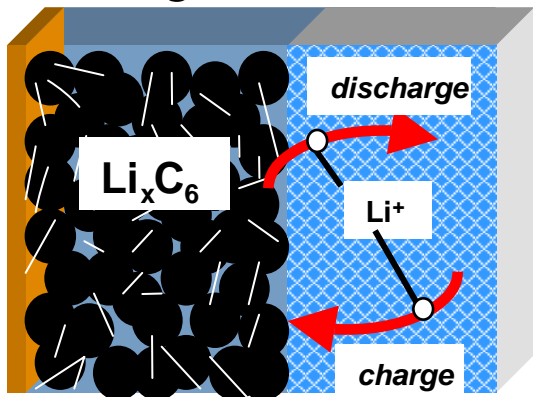


Repetitive cycling

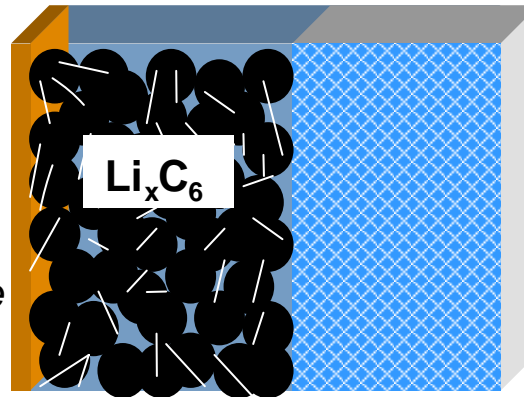


- Increased interfacial surface area
- Increased reactivity
- Potential for dendritic short-circuit
- **Interface stability issues**

Rechargeable Li-ion: *Developed as solution to metal instability*



Repetitive cycling



- Constant interfacial morphology
- Unchanged reactivity
- **Improved stability**

# Overcharge vs. Internal Short

	Overcharge	Internal Short
<b>Electrochemical Energy vs. Rated Capacity</b>	Can be 200%	$\leq 100\%$
<b>Heating Source</b>	External, Continuous	Internal, Limited
<b>Chemical Reactivity</b>	Increasing → Faster Energy Release	Decreasing or Unchanged
<b>Mitigated by Protective Circuits?</b>	Yes	No